

Berkeley, California.
2601 Durant Avenue.
February 15th 1901.

My dear Errett:

As I begin this letter to you, I feel that I am at last catching up with my correspondence which accumulated quite heavily during my recent trip to Southern California. Two months is not a very great period to have permitted to elapse before answering your epistle, however, as things go, is it? And if we were sure that always there would never be more than that interval, how good it would be!

Of course by waiting a little longer I could have become a sort of animated epistle known and read of all my old friends, but none the less, I much prefer to think that I have paid off my just debts with the same kind of coin as that in which the loan was made to me.

Of my present arrangements for returning home you have probably heard so often already that it would be almost superfluous to repeat them: yet I can give you the very latest if there will be aught of interest in that to you. I now look forward to leaving Berkeley on the first of May or possibly a little before that. In that event, even though I go around by the Canadian Pacific as I at present expect to do, I should reach Toronto on or about the 6th or 7th of the same month, but of course, I shall not expect to stay more than a day or two in Toronto at that time, as I should go home first before paying any other visits, and as all the fellows will be engaged in examinations at that very time. If therefore I stay over one night at Toronto on my way east I shall consider that I have done well. It is my intention however to return to that city at the date set for the annual commencement, this year, I believe, the 7th of June. Then the fellows will all be more at leisure, and I myself, having paid my respects to the people at home, will feel at perfect liberty to make my numerous visits in the west of Ontario. It will not be for long however, as I am at present counting on making Germany my home for the next couple of years, and am consequently expecting to sail from Canada, if my present arrangements hold good, about the first of August. My time therefore in Toronto and the west, as indeed my whole stay in Canada, will be all too brief for all I wish to do in the time. Yet of course I should be supremely thankful that I am able to get home for any time at all, however brief, and you who know me and my love for the old scenes can well imagine that I am looking forward with the keenest anticipations to the day when my train shall roll smoothly into the Toronto depot of such extremely varied memories, even including the time when I was feeling so good and friendly to all the Christmas passengers.

But enough of all these arrangements! I am sufficiently classical to have a certain dread of Nemesis, and I fear to provoke Her by detailing too often or too much at length my plans for the coming summer. Be it enough to say that I hope that you and I and all the old boys will soon be meeting face to face.

Do not imagine however, from my eagerness to return home that things out here are anything but delightful: for as a matter of fact, I grow to enjoy California and the life of freedom it affords, more every day of my sojourn here. Its climate is most delightful (every one went wild the other day over the appearance of some snow on the hills back of the town), the people most hospitable, the girls all beautiful, and the men all jolly good fellows. My impressions of California have always been of the pleasantest and always shall be, as far as I can judge at this present moment. I cannot help feeling sometimes that this stay of mine in California may ultimately bind me more closely to the Golden State than I ever imagined would be the case. Well, one might well have his destiny bound up with a less fair and less fruitful country, so that I don't know that I should be inclined to kick if my surmises should prove to have any ground in fact ultimately. I do however confess to a strong desire to be identified with Canada and Canadian progress, but as that country unfortunately does not hold out many inducements in the academic line, I am sore afraid that my portion will have to be taken up with the aliens. I have to laugh now when I remember my boyish indignation against those of our young men who went off to the United States to make a living: I can see now that it was simply an economic situation and nothing more that influenced them. In Canada there is a weak demand side and a strong supply side, while our more fortunate cousins are making such rapid progress that with them the demand side is strong enough to snap up all good material among the Canadians as well. And of course the young man goes where the salary and the chance awaits him, and damn small blame to him if he does. Canada isn't much of a place for a poor man: capitalists are the people that we want up there, capitalists to build our railways, to develop our mines, and to exploit our forests. That is where the real chance of Canadian life at present comes, and I am personally no capitalist, as you may have guessed. And the capitalists will be Americans, so that we of Canada will have to look to the things of our own house right along now, or else there will be a gentle growth of sentiment towards union, commercial and otherwise with the American Republic, which I pray heaven forbid! I want to see our Canada grow into a nation by herself some day, and not sink her destinies in this republic which will be run by a caesar some of these days sure as fate. You will say that I am not doing much towards that which I profess myself ambitious to see, and again I can only say that the great foster mother of my last two years gives me a bountiful living, and I am weak enough to yield or rather to have yielded to the bribe. Mais qu'importe? Je suis canadien. Dieu sauve le roil

Your fraternity news was very gratifying. It pleases me more than you could think to learn from time to time of the way the Toronto chapter is daily proving its right to form an integral part of the great brotherhood that stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific and that finds under its wings shelter for the men of two flags, though not of separate words or thoughts. I knew that the Toronto ^{chapter} would show itself worthy of the trust reposed upon it, but none the less

the proofs as I hear them, are very gratifying. I hope that we have gotten by this time a good showing from the present freshman class. I noticed in the convention report that we were not credited with any freshman members whatsoever, and became a little alarmed in consequence. Or is it your policy to hold off and to elect men mainly in the sophomore year? I don't think that it is a good policy to wait too long: but of course it is essential that the chapter should have formed a pretty thorough knowledge of a man before they even think of taking him in.

We out here are looking forward with interest at present to the annual reunion of the Stanford and California chapters: this will be the fifth anniversary of their joint inauguration as chapters of the fraternity. This year the Stanford men visit Berkeley, just as we visited Stanford last year. There will be all sorts of feasting and smoking and speech-making and a good time generally.

I have not heard from Annie or Edith for a long time, though both the girls were good enough to remember me at the Christmas season. Pretty nervy to refer to Mrs. Buckingham as a "girl", but it's dollars to cents that, being a woman, she won't be offended. As for the kid, I suppose that some of the younger tribe have come along and engrossed so much of her time that the old fellows don't count any longer. Well, well, such is life, not only in the Far West but everywhere no doubt. I presume all my old girls will have forgotten me when I return, having meantime fastened their affections on you chaps who were sensible enough to remain on the old sod. I have heard frequent rumors as to how you and some of the other traitors are working overtime to prevent my memory from remaining green, but by the gods that live forever, I swear to return and head off your machinations before they have time to reach a culminating point.

Well, now I'm going to say good-bye. I have'nt written any more than the law requires, but it will occupy you a few moments, and enable you to forget your miserable self for just that long, so that I think I have done you quite an extensive favor. My love to all the fratres in Delta U, and the same to your people when you write. Large soft hunks of the same commodity for yourself.

Fraternally in Delta Upsilon,

William Hardy Alexander

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